

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-15 were pending in the application. Claims 16-24, drawn to non-elected species, have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejections under §112 and §103.

No new matter has been added. Indeed, the amendment made to claim 1 directly derives the specification as originally filed. Please note that the last eight lines of claim 1 have been simply shifted ahead.

**Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 1 and 3-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the antecedent basis problems.

**Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 103**

Claims 1 and 3-15 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daelmans et al. (US 5 935 686) in view of Guidot et al. (EP 957 043).

Claims 3-12 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daelmans in view of Guidot and further in view of McBean (US 2 079 328).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the step of positioning the second notches of the two longitudinal edges transversely offset from one another, implemented while folding each leaf around a respective product and bringing together the two longitudinal edges to form a tubular sheath. Consequently, the correspondent first notches of the two longitudinal edges are also transversely offset from one another. See Fig. 6 and accompanying text.

This allows an easier tear and a quick opening of the packet. Indeed, the second notch, establishing at least one indentation, guides the tear through both edges of the wrap without difficulty. In other words, the presence of the second notches eliminates the need for transverse alignment of the first notches, and allows the first notches to be transversely offset from one another, thereby speeding up the operation of assembling the wrap.

Daelmans discloses a method of making product wraps. As the Examiner stated, Daelmans does not expressly disclose the step of forming an easy tear along the longitudinal edges of the leaf.

Guidot discloses a method of making a product wrap with an easy tear formed along the longitudinal edges of the leaf. However Guidot does not disclose or suggest positioning the second notches of each longitudinal edge transversely shifted from one another while folding each leaf around a respective product and bringing together the two longitudinal edges to form a tubular sheath.

Indeed, Guidot discloses generating a second notch only on one longitudinal edge, and not on each longitudinal edge intersecting each first notch. Only in figure 4 the second notch is visible on both the longitudinal edges but, as clearly shown in figure 2, they coincide when the leaf is wrapped around the product. In this way the two first notches realized on both the longitudinal edges coincide with one another and are not transversely offset from one another, as required by amended claim 1.

Moreover in claim 1, the steps of generating the first and the second notches are implemented before folding each leaf around the relative product. By contrast, as clearly disclosed on column 5 paragraph 30, Guidot provides the second notches (13) before sealing the leaf around the product, and generates the first notches (9 and 12) after the product has been wrapped.

McBean discloses forming an easy tear along the longitudinal edges of the leaf, but does not disclose or suggest placing the second notches transversely offset from

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one another so that the first notches are also transversely offset from one another, as required in amended claim 1. Indeed McBean shows that both the second notches and the first notches of the two respective longitudinal edges coincide with one another and are not transversely offset from one another.

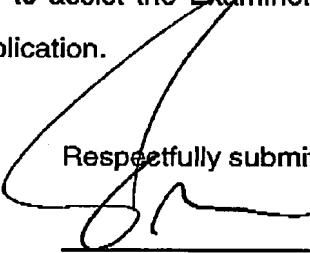
Therefore none of the cited documents, alone or in combination, teach or suggest anything which would prompt the person of ordinary skill in the art to realize all the steps as disclosed in claim 1.

Therefore, claims 1 and 3-15 are believed allowable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

#### Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicant's counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.



Respectfully submitted,

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